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BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

GEORGE G. CULMER,

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1937

FAVERSHAM
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1937

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

I have now the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1937 on the Health Conditions of the enlarged Borough: there are no special features to comment upon: the amount of Infectious Disease was very small and no Epidemic was recorded: all cases requiring it were isolated: there was some amount of influenza in the early part of the year causing 3 deaths.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

These consist of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer, a part time appointment; the Ophthalmic and Dental Officers and School Nurse under the Education Committee, all part time appointments except the School Nurse. The Sanitary Inspector is a full time officer, who also possesses the qualification of Meat Inspector; he also carries out the work of Petroleum and Shop Inspector.

NATURE AND CONDITION OF THE AREA

Area of the District in acres : 3,070.

Population: Census, 1931, 10,030. Estimated for 1937 (middle) 12,180

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA

The district as enlarged is on either side of the main road from London to Dover; it includes both sides of the Faversham Creek as far as Thorn Creek, thence the Creek forms the Northern boundary of the area as far as Hollow Shore, thence the boundary runs along the whole length of Oare Creek; from there it crosses the Oare Road and runs to

Bysing Wood, following its edge for a short distance, then across to the main London and Dover road: thence it returns along the boundary of Syndale Park; across to the top of Whitehill, thence by Westwood back to the main road again.

It now includes the Public Assistance Institution, some additional brickfields, the whole of the parishes of North and South Preston and a large area of the parish of Ospringe, and a small part of Luddenhams parish. The nature of the added area varies very much: Davington and the Brents are thickly populated, Ospringe, only so in the actual village: the rest of the area is rural in nature, some of it marsh land: it contains one or two hop-gardens. The sub-soil of most of the old Borough is clay or brick-earth, but most of the added area is on the chalk; the ground rises gradually and steadily towards the south.

As the greater part of the added area is not sewered the provision of an up-to-date drainage system is imperative and has been commenced, also lighting and road improvements.

The chief industries in the neighbourhood are the Breweries, the Brickfields, the Ship Building Yard and the Timber Yard; there is also a certain amount of occupation found in fishing, oyster dredging and other seafaring work. The volume of trade entering the Creek shows an improvement: timber and other cargoes are brought up in barges: a fair amount of coasting trade is carried on by motor boats: a large amount of petroleum is brought in bulk for the distributing depots.

Number of inhabited houses, 1937 (end of)	..	3644
Rateable value of the Borough	.....	£69,113/0/0
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....	£268/8/5

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

There were 162 live births registered during the year—88 males and 74 females. This gives a Birth-rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of estimated population—the average of England and Wales being 14.9. This is more than in 1936 when the total number was 151. There were 8 illegitimate births (Boys 5, Girls 3): one of these children died. There were 5 still births registered: 2 male and 3 female: none of these were illegitimate children.

DEATHS

The number actually registered was 191. From this must be deducted the deaths of 42 persons who belonged to other districts: on the other side we must add 19 deaths in other districts that must be ascribed to this district, as follows:—

Beacon Hill Isolation Hospital	..	..	3
Chartham Mental Hospital	..	..	2
Other Hospitals	..	..	11
Swale Rural District	..	..	6
Other Districts	..	..	3
			—
			19
			—

There were 97 deaths in Public Institutions in the district:—79 in Bensted House, 10 in the Cottage Hospital and 8 in the Nursing Home. There were 9 deaths of children under one year of age, and 118 of persons of the age of 65 and upwards.

The result is a nett total of 168 deaths. This gives for the Borough a Death-rate for the year 1937 of 13.7 which is above the average for the whole kingdom which is given as 12.4.

Again this year the number of Births has been exceeded by that of the Deaths.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths under one year of age was 9 (5 Males and 4 Females), as against 6 in the previous year. This gives a ratio of 55 per 1,000 births, against 39 in 1936. The average for the whole country is 58.

No illegitimate infants died during the year.

CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS

Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	..	..	..	..	5
Asphyxia	..	..	..	..	1
Pemphigus	..	..	..	..	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1937	1936
Enteric Fever	0	0
Measles	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Influenza	8	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	7
Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	2
Cancer	24	28
Meningitis	0	0
Diabetes	1	0
Organic Heart Disease	41	34
Bronchitis	6	7
Pneumonia	12	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	8	5
Diarrhoeal Diseases	0	2
Appendicitis	3	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Alcoholism	0	0
Nephritis	4	9
Parturition	0	0
Premature Birth and Congenital Causes	5	2
Accidents and Suicides	3	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	14	10
Arterio-sclerosis	9	15

CAUSES OF DEATH—Continued

	1937	1936
Syphilis	1	0
Rheumatic Fever	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Digestive Diseases	2	7
Senility	9	7

Total. M. F.

Live Births—				
Legitimate ..	162	88	74	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
Illegitimate ..	8	5	3	resident population
Stillbirths ..	5	2	3	13.3
				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
				births
				30
Deaths	168	79	89	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
				resident population
				13.7

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ..	0	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes ..	0	—
Total	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

There are no trades or occupations in the Borough that could be considered as prejudicial to health. The town contains an excellent Cottage Hospital of 16 beds. This treats accidents and surgical cases, many of which are major operations, and also, if beds are available, acute medical and maternity cases; its beds are nearly always fully occupied; it has X-ray and Massage departments. Dental cases are treated; also Tonsils and Adenoids under agreement with the Education Committee.

In-Patients Treated	225
Out-Patients Treated	320
Operations—	
Major	114
Minor	257
X-Ray Cases	187
Massage Attendances	103

There is also a Provident Dispensary which arranges for the treatment of poor people in their own homes.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Authority has its own Isolation Hospital, situated at Kennaways in the Rural District, nearly three miles away; this has not been

in use for some time as it has been found more economical to have our infectious cases treated at the Beacon Hill Isolation Hospital of the Swale District, by arrangement with that Authority. This has been working very well: but since the 1st of November under the Scheme of the Kent County Council our infectious cases have been removed to the Isolation Hospital at Keycol Hill.

The Small-pox hospital is situated in the Rural District and has 12 beds; this is in the hands of a caretaker and his wife, but is drifting into a bad state of repair. The Council have a reciprocal arrangement with the Rural Authority, by which this hospital can be used for their cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

During the period under review the St. John Ambulance Brigade Units, consisting of The Ambulance Division and Nursing Division have had a very busy time. Two Motor Ambulances are in frequent use, having travelled a distance of just on 7,000 miles.

Transport figures show:

Transport of sick	..	..	..	..	359
Road accidents	..	..	..	..	26
Other accidents	..	..	..	..	26
Total	..	..	..	..	411

Members of the Divisions also record 187 cases of first aid rendered, this being a conservative number, as many cases are never reported.

During the year, a more modern Saloon Ambulance has been acquired, this giving the maximum of travel comfort to those patients who have to be conveyed to London and other distant points.

Members of the Nursing Division have rendered invaluable help at the Infant Welfare Clinic and various School Dental Clinics. Members of both Divisions, too, readily gave their services at innumerable public and private functions, help of this kind never being refused.

In Air Raid Precautions the St. John Ambulance Brigade at the express wish of the Government, have undertaken the responsibility for that part of the scheme covering the First Aid and Decontamination of Casualties and the training of the general public.

Faversham Divisions have already devoted a considerable amount of time to the training of their own Members in readiness. 3 Members hold Grade I Instructors Certificates, 8 have Grade II Instructors Certificates and 25 A.R.P. Certificates. The Town is much better served in this respect than most, and with this help available, rapid progress should be made locally in A.R.P. in the coming year.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

There is one private Nursing Home in the Borough, which is licensed for the reception of Maternity Cases.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

This has been established for some years and is held at the Queen's Hall; it is very successful and well attended, the average attendance being 38.3. The number of children actually attending was 346 who made 4,031 attendances. Necessitous mothers are given orders for supply of new milk and can also obtain artificial foods at a reduced price; in connection with this, dental treatment in needy cases for the mothers and children is arranged for. In consequence of the large attendance the Clinic is now open two days a week.

An Antenatal clinic is held on Tuesdays and has had a total of 103 attendances, and was open 12 times.

In addition to their Transport work, the members of the Nursing Division have made numerous attendances at the Hospital and the various School, Welfare and Maternity Clinics throughout the year.

TREATMENT CENTRES

The County Council Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at their Centre at 13, Albion Terrace, where there is also held a Clinic for treatment of Venereal Diseases.

HOME NURSING

This is supplied by a Voluntary Association, the Faversham Nursing Association, for attendance on ordinary sickness cases, but not for infectious illnesses. Their nurse attends cases of ordinary illness in their own homes: we have now two registered midwives working under the County Council Scheme who attend all such cases not only in the Borough but in the surrounding district.

Chemical work is carried out by the Public Analyst at Canterbury or by the County Analyst at Maidstone.

LOCAL ACTS, ADOPTIVE ACTS, AND BYELAWS

We have no local Acts but some adoptive portions of the Public Health Amendments Act of 1907, also Part II of the Public Health Act, 1925, are in force in the Borough.

We have also Byelaws for:—

Common Lodging houses and for houses let in lodgings.

Slaughterhouses.

Removal of Nuisances.

WATER SUPPLY

This comes from deep wells in the chalk from a situation above the town and one that is to all appearance not liable to contamination; it is of very good quality: like all such waters, however, it errs on the side of hardness. Seven specimens were sent for Analysis during the year: of these three were from the Public Supply: all but one gained a good report as being of satisfactory quality: The Public Supply was reported to be of excellent organic quality.

The supply was good and plentiful during the year. The new well up the country yields a plentiful supply of water, which gives excellent results on Analysis.

There are several wells in the town which the water is used for drinking purposes; samples have been taken for test as occasion arose. In the past year 4 samples were taken for analysis which were found satisfactory except in one instance.

Arrangements have now been made for regular Bacteriological examinations.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The whole of the old Borough, with the exception of Preston Village, is sewered, about two thirds on the combined system and one third on the separate system.

One third approximately of the sewers discharge to the Town Wharf Ejector station, from whence, the sewage is lifted into the Abbey Street high level sewer. The remaining two thirds discharge direct to the Main Outfall Pumping Station. The quantity pumped per day at this station varies from 500,000 gallons to 600,000 gallons. It is delivered to the Disposal Works where it is treated in Slate Settlement beds. Percolating Filters and Final Sedimentation Tank. The final filtrate is discharged into the Creek and is of such a quality that there is never more than one grain per gallon absorbed from K.M.n.O.4 in 24 hours and the general average is very much lower so that the standard far exceeds that laid down for the discharge of liquids into tidal waters.

A new scheme is now being carried out for the sewerage of the added areas of the Borough and will cover the whole of this area with the exception of Brogdale Road and Ashford Road. It is a very comprehensive scheme and in the cases of all houses which are already connected to sewers, includes new drains to such houses, connected to the new sewers. This is taking place at The Brents and Davington. The sewerage from the whole of the Brents District will be taken to a new Pumping Station as levels would not allow of discharge by gravitation into the existing sewers. The sewerage from Davington will discharge by gravitation into the existing sewers as will also that from the Ospringe District, in which area, sewers are being laid to take the whole of the houses and also the Public Assistance Institution.

All the sewage from this new scheme will eventually flow to the Town Wharf Ejector Station and thence to the Main Outfall Pumping Station. Hence, with a view to economy in pumping costs, strict care is being taken to exclude all roof and surface water from the new sewers. The capacity of the pumping plant at the Main Outfall Pumping Station, and the Ejector Station is sufficient to deal with the increased flow from the added areas as is also the capacity of the Disposal Works. It is anticipated that the new scheme will be in working order by September.

Sewer flushing is regularly carried out and flushing tanks will be provided on the ends of all the new sewers.

The whole of the area of the old Borough with the exception of Preston Village is sewered. Two thirds of the area is on the combined system under which the sewers take surface and storm water as well as sewage and of this mixture, six times the dry weather flow is treated as

sewage. The remainder is taken by means of storm overflows into storm water sewers.

In the remaining third of the area, there are separate storm water sewers which discharge eventually into the Creek.

The sewage is taken to the Main Outfall Pumping Station at Abbey Fields from whence it is pumped to the Disposal Works adjoining Thorne Creek where it is treated in Settlement Tanks, Filters and Sedimentation Tanks and the effluent is discharged into the Creek.

The effluent is considered to be consistently good as is shewn by the fact that the average of 73 analyses taken during 1937 shewed that the amount of Oxygen absorbed from K.M.n.0.4 in 4 hours was .8413 grains per gallon (less than one grain).

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Most of the houses in the old Borough area are connected on to the deep drainage, though the closets are not all fitted with flushing cisterns but we are using our influence to get these fitted where possible; in the new area there are practically no water closets; mostly cesspools and pail closets: when deep drainage is an accomplished fact, we hope to make a great change in these conditions.

Number of houses in Borough	3644
Number of Freshwater Closets	3422
Number of Privies (moveable receptacles) ..	235
Number of Privies (fixed receptacles) ..	10
Conversions into Water Closets	9

HOUSE REFUSE AND SCAVENGING

House refuse is collected twice weekly from the whole area of the Borough, the bulk being collected in a covered Dennis Motor Lorry and the remainder by covered carts.

The refuse is disposed of at Preston Pit on the Bradford system under which, the refuse is tipped in comparatively shallow layers and covered up every day with soil. This has the effect of making a solid deposit free from voids which encourage rats besides overcoming the unsightly nuisance of loose paper, etc. blowing about. The number of rats has decreased very greatly since the Bradford system was inaugurated and they are now comparatively rare.

There is some amount of Refuse from earth closets and privies and cesspools which is dealt with privately.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades in the Borough. There are seven premises on which the frying of fish is permitted; these are all well managed and supervised and have not given rise to any more annoyance than could reasonably be expected.

HOME WORKERS

There is very little of this carried on; we have two lists of out-workers sent in.

COMMON LODGING - HOUSES

There are two of these in the Borough, one of them being on licensed premises. These are subject to the Byelaws as to ventilation, overcrowding, cleanliness, white-washing, and adequacy of sanitary arrangements. They have been well managed and kept in good order throughout the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of Premises on the Register:—							
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
							85
							—

This is a decrease of 8 on last year's total.

The occupations carried on in these places may be given as follows:—

Dressmaking	Wheelwrights	Harness-making
Millinery	Saddlers	Boot-making
Tailoring	Cycle Repairers	Rag Sorting
Bakehouses	Carpenters and Builders	Monumental Masons
Breweries	Basket-making	Coach Builders, etc.
Printers	Cabinet-making	

These have all been regularly inspected and kept up to a proper standard of cleanliness and ventilation, and provision of proper sanitary conveniences, and overcrowding has been prevented.

SCHOOLS

The Borough as enlarged contains Five Schools:—

The Council School in Ethelbert Road.

The District School in Church Road.

The Methodist School in Solomon's Lane.

The North Preston School at Davington.

The Ospringe (C' of E.) Schools.

The Methodist School receives Infants only: all the others have Boys, Girls and Infants.

The sanitary arrangements have been surveyed during the year and are in good order. The buildings are in good repair and well supplied with water from the public supply.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Regular inspection as required by the Board of Education has been carried out on the children entering school, and also at the ages of 8 and 13. Re-examinations and special examinations have also been made as necessary, the total number of children examined amounting to 1,012. Many suspicious cases of infectious disease were examined and the necessary instructions given. There were 70 children referred for treatment for serious defects or diseases. The most important of the defects consisted of errors of vision, and enlarged tonsils and adenoids. The Ophthalmic Specialist attended to 87 eye cases; glasses were prescribed for 84 of these and supplied by the Committee; most of the cost has been repaid by the parents; 5 children had their glasses repaired.

The Dental Scheme has been in operation throughout the year; and

has comprehended the whole of the children attending the Elementary Schools: sessions have been held regularly for Fillings and Extractions: anæsthetics have been administered where necessary by myself: attention has been paid to the cleansing and regulation of the teeth.

STATISTICS

Inspected by Dentist ..	1032	Fillings	592
Found to require treatment	674	Extractions	1511
Treated	548	Sessions by Dental Officer	156
Percentage of Acceptances		81.3	

The percentage of Acceptances is exceptionally high: it is also pleasing to note that the proportion of fillings to extractions has increased.

Nineteen cases of enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids were attended to at the Cottage Hospital by arrangement with the Education Committee. Parents showed an interest in the work of Medical Inspection by attending in good numbers. The School Nurse has visited children in their homes and supervised and applied treatment and has assisted myself and the Ophthalmic and Dental Officers at our visits and inspections: she also does the work of the Minor Ailments Clinic.

During the year cleanliness inspection of School Children has been carried out: the Nurse has made 66 visits to the Schools for that purpose; also she has made home visits during the year in connection with the treatment of minor ailments and other matters.

Under the County Orthopædic Scheme 6 children attended Canterbury Hospital which is the centre for this district.

The Minor Ailments Clinic was open daily throughout the year: 409 cases of various kinds have been treated: 2,647 attendances were made there by the children: 257 sessions were held. The scheme for the supply of milk to the School Children has been in operation throughout the year: by means of Voluntary Efforts for which we are very grateful, necessitous children in real need of the milk have not been deprived of their regular supply. Epidemic disease has not been prevalent to any extent during the year: mumps and chicken pox have caused some interference with School attendance: but the question of School Closure has never arisen.

Regular Physical Exercises are carried out at the Schools: organised games are encouraged: the Boys are able to play football on the Town's Playing Fields: a large amount of literature has been distributed in the Schools to further the campaign for National Fitness.

HOUSING

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	432
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	463
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ..	169
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	169
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	315

2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	286
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—</i>	
	(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
	(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:—</i>	
	<i>As shewn by Preliminary Survey, 1936</i>	
	(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	52
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	52
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	278 adults. 95 children under 10
	(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	none officially
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	0
	<i>Slum Clearance: 38 Houses have been demolished under this Programme:</i>	
	4 in which action is necessary, remain to be dealt with.	

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply of the Borough was formerly obtained chiefly from outside its boundaries, but the enlargement of the area has now included some of these sources within the Borough itself: we have now:

Producers of Milk	8
Retail Purveyors	15
Registered Premises	18

Some of it is sold in milk shops of which there are a few in the town. In all of these places the milk is not stored, but sold right away as soon as it arrives in the shop from the dairy. The Cowsheds and the Dairies in the Borough are kept clean and in good order; they have been regularly inspected. We have one dairy that sells "Pasteurised" Milk: 6 samples were taken from this and sent for examination: in all cases the results were satisfactory and the bacterial count below the limit: showing that the process has been efficiently carried out.

Sixteen samples of accredited milk were taken, four of which failed to comply with the bacterial standard: we have four licensed producers of this milk in the Borough.

Under the new Milk Regulations the Elementary and Secondary Schools are supplied daily with $\frac{1}{3}$ -pint of Milk for each child, needing it or willing to have it.

Seven samples of this supply have been tested and gave satisfactory results, including the Milk supplied to the Public Assistance Institution.

MEAT AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:—

	Cattle, excluding Cows. Cows. Calves.			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ..					
Number inspected	400	113	1236	3808	3269
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ..				63	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	54	3	4	16	104
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	13	3	.003	2	3.24
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ..		4			2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	12	14	3		45
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	3	16	.0025		1.4

The following premises are on the register of Slaughterhouses:—

Registered	6
Licensed (continuing)	1
Licensed (annual)	1
	<hr/>
	8
	<hr/>

During the past year 255 animals were found to be suffering from disease which rendered the carcase wholly or partially unfit for human food; these were surrendered and destroyed; the total weight of food surrendered amounting to 9020 lbs.: this shows an increase on 1936.

Arrangements are made for inspection at the time of slaughter by

the Inspector; he has charge of the administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924: to carry out this he made 1,519 inspections, mostly at the actual time of slaughtering: as many as 90 per cent. of the animals killed came under inspection in this manner. About 48 per cent. of the total weight surrendered for destruction was on account of tuberculosis.

There is no public Slaughterhouse; the private ones have been satisfactorily conducted.

The scheme organised by the Authority for the collection of Slaughterhouse Refuse has been working satisfactorily.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 13 bakehouses on the Register. There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough. Of these five may be classed as Factory bakehouses as machinery (chiefly electric) is employed in them. These have been uniformly kept in good order in the past year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928

No rag flock is manufactured or sold as such in the district: a small amount is used by upholsterers in the course of repairs, etc.

ADULTERATION—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

These acts are administered by the County who take samples regularly. Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the past year the amount of Influenza present was rather more and type a little more severe than in 1936: 5 deaths were certified as due to it. Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough were small in amount.

There have been no epidemics of any of the ordinary Notifiable diseases, in fact the total amount of infectious disease is below the average of previous years: no deaths are certified from these excepting 12 of Pneumonia.

There have been no cases of Small Pox. No infectious cases were imported during the Hopping Season.

The Serum treatment of Scarlet Fever was carried out at the Isolation Hospital: the Schick test in Diphtheria has not been used.

The County Laboratory at Maidstone has full facilities for bacteriological and pathological examination of specimens: reports as to results are promptly received.

During the year the following specimens have been sent:—

			Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	..	38	0	38
Tuberculosis	..	64	11	53
Typhoid	..	1	0	1
Strept Hæmolytic	..	7	5	2
Total	..	110	16	94

Pathological specimens have also been sent from the hospital and from private cases.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small-Pox) Regulations, 1917.

The authority have a disinfectant at the Isolation Hospital at Kenna-ways. Cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons is carried out by the Guardians at the Institution by arrangement.

All cases of suspected infectious disease discovered by the School teachers or Attendance Officer are immediately reported to the M.O.H. and investigated by him.

Diphtheria antitoxin and anti-meningococcus serum are supplied to the medical men by the Authority. At the Cottage Hospital there are available tetanus antitoxin (supplied by the County Medical Officer) and anti-streptococcus serum.

There were 47 cases of infectious disease notified under all headings in 1937 as against 49 in 1936. Of these, 30 cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals. These are classified as follows:—

	Notified.		Removed to Hospital	
	1936	1937	1936	1937
Diphtheria	6	1	6	1
Erysipelas	6	9	2	1
Scarlet Fever	11	8	11	8
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0	0
Anterior Polio Myelitis	0	0	0	0
Cerebral-spinal Fever	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia, Neonatorum	0	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	M.5	M.7	M.5	M.8
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	F.5	F.6	F.0	F.3
Tuberculosis, other forms	M.2	M.4	M.0	M.2
Tuberculosis, other forms	F.4	F.5	F.1	F.1
Pneumonia	8	5	5	5
Malaria	0	0	0	0
Total	49	47	32	30

Two cases of Tuberculosis were transferred to my list from other districts: both were pulmonary cases.

There were 12 deaths from Pneumonia and 5 deaths certified from Tuberculosis: none of these were non-notified. I received during the year 16 notifications under Form C, and 14 under Form D.

No action has had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

INSPECTION

During the year I have made routine inspections of the various premises that come under my powers, and special visits as occasion arose in connection with infectious disease, nuisances, insanitary conditions, diseased meat, defective houses, and other causes: detailed as below:—

Unfit Houses: (Slum Clearance)	..	..	25
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	2
Workshops	..	..	23
Factories	..	..	35
Bakehouses	..	..	11
Slaughter-houses	..	..	9
Fish Shops	..	..	8
Dairies, Milk Shops and Cowsheds	..	..	18
Various	..	..	40
Hop Huts	..	..	3
			<hr/>
			174
			<hr/>

NATIONAL FITNESS MOVEMENT

In connection with this a good deal of propaganda work has been done: posters have been displayed in Schools and public buildings, etc.: a large amount of literature has been distributed by means of the school children; the Public Library has assisted by furnishing to borrowers several hundred bookmarkers.

Addresses have been given by myself in the Secondary Schools and to many public associations in the district.

The details of the various premises to be inspected and the work done in connection therewith are set out fully in the report of the Sanitary Inspector and it is therefore unnecessary for me to recapitulate them.

In concluding my Report I have to acknowledge the consideration always shown to me by the Council and valuable help received from my brother officials.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1938.

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1937.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough—

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN

I beg to submit a report of the work done in my department during the year 1937.

The Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation on October 1st, 1937, and was designed to consolidate the laws governing public health administration during the past sixty years. The Act gives a clear definition of a sufficient water closet, and the provision of flushing cisterns is now compulsory where a sewer and water supply are available. It also simplifies the procedure for dealing with paving of yards, courts, and passages, and the provision of sanitary dustbins. At the same time it places on occupiers the duty of protecting sanitary fittings from frost, and prohibiting the deposit of liquid matter in dustbins. It is incumbent on local authorities to make, and to periodically revise, byelaws to deal with various matters mentioned in the Act.

Regarding overcrowding, the work of measuring houses for the purpose of ascertaining permitted numbers for insertion by owners in rent books is proceeding towards completion. The Council decided to measure houses coming within the the scope of the Housing Act in those cases where the owners had not troubled to apply for the required information.

The year has seen the commencement of the work of sewerage two portions of the added area in the Borough. It will now be necessary to call upon owners to connect or reconstruct the drainage and sanitary fittings of houses to comply with the regulations, thereby effecting a considerable improvement in the sanitary conditions of those parts of the district. I need assistance if this work is to be properly supervised. The work in connection with ordinary house inspection and supervision of repairs, meat and food inspection, milk and dairies, and public health generally, with their accompanying large quota of clerical work and reports, make the efficient discharge of my duties impossible, single handed.

I now give brief details of work under various headings:

HOUSING

Representations were made in respect of four houses in Abbey Fields, and one in Cross Lane. After consultation with the owners the Council made Orders for Demolition in each case. The latter house

was vacated and demolished. In the former group one only has been vacated owing to the difficulty of finding alternative accommodation for the tenants at a reasonable rent.

Two houses represented in 1936 were thoroughly repaired and improved by the provision of new sculleries, food stores, water closets and drainage, the work being carried out with the assistance of a grant under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

The Council have a scheme under consideration for the provision of some houses to deal with the cases of overcrowding revealed by the survey and not already abated.

Under the Housing Regulations 169 houses were inspected and the necessary records made. The districts covered were Bank Street, Ospringe Road (west side), Belmont Road, South Road (west side) and Abbey Street (part). Of this number, 139 were found not in all respects fit, and notices were sent to the owners for defects to be remedied. A large number of repairs and improvements were carried out on the receipt of the preliminary notices, and in ten cases it was necessary to report to the Council for Statutory notices to secure compliance with the requirements of the Acts.

The attention of builders and others should be called to the provisions of Section 41 of the 1936 Act which requires notice to be given before any repair or reconstruction work to a drain is done or covered up.

A detailed list of defects and nuisances found is given later in the report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Council's arrangement with the Swale R.D.C. for the treatment of Borough cases at Beacon Hill Isolation Hospital continued in operation until the hospital was closed in November. All cases are now treated at the Keycol Hill Hospital at Sittingbourne, and in addition are removed by motor ambulance accompanied by a nurse. The usual enquiries have been made and precautions taken in connection with notified cases. 52 rooms were disinfected with formalin after removal of patients, death from tuberculosis, or other reasons, including destruction of bedding etc. on request.

WATER SUPPLY

Seven samples of water were submitted to the County Analyst for examination including three from the Public Supply.

The reports in six cases were satisfactory, those from the Public Supply were reported as of excellent organic quality.

The Council decided to have samples from the Public Supply analysed quarterly instead of half yearly, and at the close of the year the question of periodical bacteriological examination of water was under consideration.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are eight slaughterhouses on the Borough register, consisting of:—Registered 6, Licensed (continuing) 1, Licensed (annual) 1. No change of occupiers has occurred during the year.

The Slaughter of Animals Act is in force and includes all animals. The adjoining rural district has now included sheep thereby making the practice uniform.

The premises have been kept, and the work carried out generally satisfactory by the licensed slaughtermen. The number of animals slaughtered for the London and other markets continues to increase, and there is ample accommodation.

The scheme for the regular collection of refuse from the slaughterhouses and fish shops has worked satisfactorily to the mutual benefit of the traders and the public health. The work is done by the Council's staff and the cost charged to the Butchers' Association and the fish retailers.

MEAT REGULATIONS

Summaries of work done under the Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 have been submitted to the Health Committee at the end of each quarter, and included in the quarterly reports of the M.O.H.

The total figures for the year are:—

Animals inspected:—

Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	513
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	3808
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	3269
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	1236
Total	..	..	..	..	..	8826

1,147 notices of slaughter were received, and 1,190 inspections made to the Cattle Market and Slaughterhouses, while 329 inspections were made to meat, fish and other food shops and markets.

The majority of the inspections were made while work was in progress, often late at night, in order to detect any abnormal conditions. I have also co-operated with the County Veterinary Staff in arranging facilities for the slaughter of animals under the Tuberculosis Order, and the subsequent disposal of carcasses.

The total amount of meat and organs surrendered on account of disease and unsoundness was 9,008 lbs. Other food inspections resulted in the surrender of a parcel of tins of fish which were decomposed and unfit for human food, making the total weight of food surrendered at 9,020 lbs.—over 4 tons.

The number of animals inspected represents about 90 per cent. of the total killed, a large proportion of which were sent to London markets.

The number of animals found wholly or partly diseased was 255, while 48% of the total weight of meat and organs surrendered was on account of tuberculosis.

The whole of the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered without formal seizure, and the necessary certificates given. I appreciate the support and co-operation given me by the traders towards maintaining a pure food supply.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

The following are on the register:—

Producers	..	..	..	..	..	8
Retail Purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	15
Registered Premises	..	..	..	..	..	18

102 inspections were made in order to see that the regulations were carried out, and several samples tested with a sediment tester showed

fairly good results. The Weights and Measures Inspector for the County district is responsible for samples under the Food and Drugs Acts.

Four licences issued by the County Council to producers of accredited milk were in force in the Borough during the year, one has now been discontinued. The only licences issued by the Local Authority under the Designations Order 1936 are, one for the building in which Pasteurisation is carried on, and one licence to sell T.T. milk produced and bottled outside the district. A large quantity of accredited milk produced in the Rural District is sold in the town, and I consider our milk supply compares favourably with other districts for quality and cleanliness.

Six samples of Pasteurised milk were examined at the County Laboratory during the year. The reports show that all of them satisfied the prescribed conditions (a maximum of 100,000 per millilitre), in fact, four had counts of under 1,900 per mil.

Sixteen samples were taken for the County under the Accredited Scheme of which four failed to pass the coliform test, although complying with the methylene blue test.

Three samples of milk supplied to the P.A. Inst., and four samples of school milk taken for the County gave satisfactory results on examination.

In addition to the accredited producers, four retail dairies have sterilising plants in use for bottles and utensils.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following premises are on the register:—

Factories	37
Workshops	48
	—
Total	85
	—

8 retail bakehouses and 5 factory bakehouses are included in these figures, 114 inspections were made and two nuisances found.

Two lists of outworkers were received and entered in the register.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two premises registered as Common Lodging Houses, the keepers of which are licensed annually. 18 inspections were made and the premises generally have been kept satisfactory.

RAT NUISANCE

The controlled system of tipping in operation at the refuse tip is working satisfactorily and no nuisance from rats has arisen.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DEALT WITH UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

Choked and defective drains	100
Defective and insufficient water closets ..	106
New cisterns provided to closets	95
Defective paving to yards	66
Damp walls	30
Insanitary sinks	13
Insanitary sink wastes	31
Defective dust bins	32
Defective gutters and rain water pipes ..	23
Defective doors and frames	12
Defective windows	33
Defective roofs	38
Defective floors	14
Defective stoves and coppers	11
Defective ceilings and plastering	12
Defective flushing cisterns	11
Overflowing cesspools	52
Insufficient water supply	7
Pail closets converted to water closets ..	9
Dirty houses	1
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain ..	2
Various	16
Total ..	<hr/> 714 <hr/>

INSPECTIONS

Housing Regulations	169
Premises, Drains, Dustbins, etc.	301
Infectious Diseases	45
Slaughterhouses and Cattle Market ..	1190
Fish, Fruit and Meat Shops, Markets ..	329
Stables	17
Cowsheds and Dairies	102
Factories	51
Workshops	47
Bakehouses	16
Common Lodging Houses	18
Re-Inspections, Unfit Houses, Hop Huts etc. ..	1405
Total ..	<hr/> 3690 <hr/>

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND

During inspection of houses, &c.	712
Factories and Workshops	2
Total ..	<hr/> 714 <hr/>

ACTION TAKEN

Informal notices served	321
Statutory Notices P.H. Acts	9
Statutory Notices Housing Acts	2
Total	<u>332</u>

RESULTS

Defects and nuisances remedied including those outstanding December 31st, 1936 ..	693
Defects and nuisances outstanding December 31st, 1937	119
Total	<u>812</u>

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

In concluding my twenty-third Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector may I express my thanks to the members of the Health Committee, Dr. Evers, Medical Officer of Health, and the Town Clerk for their co-operation and assistance, and also to the public generally for their courtesy during the inspections.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE G. CULMER,

M.R. San. Inst, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Faversham,

January 27th, 1938.



